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in connection with one of the largest mercantile houses in Boston. It should prove especially helpful in part-time training courses in salesmanship.

In addition to its value as a text in actual training for retail selling, this book is one of the best available sources of information concerning the nature of sales work. From this point of view it will be found helpful in the hands of teachers and as a general reference for the vocational guidance of secondary-school students.

An opportunity volume for high-school students.—Frederick J. Allen's *The Law as a Vocation*¹ is one of a series of vocational studies. The book is intended to afford material that will assist young people in the choice of a vocation. It should encourage those who show marked ability and sincerity of purpose and discourage those of mediocre ability or questionable motives. The author discusses the development of "Law as a Vocation," calls attention to the present overcrowding of the profession, indicates the training necessary for success, something of the routine work of the lawyer, the usual line of advancement, and finally the rewards to be expected both from the economic and service points of view. The book is suggestive and will be helpful not only because of the information contained but also as a basis for further study and investigation.

SOME RECENT BOOKS FOR HIGH-SCHOOL CLASSES IN FRENCH

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A. LITERARY TEXTS

A new edition of Colomba for third-year students.—In the Macmillan French Series is found an edition of the ever-new, ever-delightful *Colomba*.² This master novel of Mérimée, which opened the door of the Académie to the author, is well edited by Victor E. François, who has taken great pains to make the book usable for students. The carefully planned notes are full and elucidating and are just long enough to clear up the points; they do not send one's thoughts wandering on side-issues. Of great value, also, is the key to Italian pronunciation, given in a few general rules. Learning to pronounce the names of places and persons in the original language adds much to the *couleur locale*. For teachers using the direct method, the groups of questions, the answers for which are found directly in the text, are complete and not too complicated. These questions are distinctly identified by the headings of the group, such as "Based on chap. i, pages 1-5," etc. Following the questions are English sentences to be turned into the French idiom. A teacher insisting upon these sentences being written, by following the text (and not using the French vocabulary in the book or a dictionary), should obtain excellent French expressions by this direct treatment.

A very practical addition to this edition is a map of Corsica, indicating the principal points mentioned and tracing in distinct outline the route followed by

¹ FREDERICK J. ALLEN, *The Law as a Vocation*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1919. Pp viii+83.

² VICTOR E. FRANÇOIS, *Mérimée's Colomba*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. x+306.

the participants in the story. With each change of place mentioned, the mind need not fumble about, wondering where everybody is now in relation to everybody else. The map settles that clearly.

The charm of the story has been enhanced by pen and ink drawings, in full- and half-page size, by Herbert Deland Williams. They are well-chosen scenes from important places and monuments mentioned in the novel.

Many parts of this interesting book contain effective and convincing dialogue. These sections may be committed to memory and dramatized. By this further direct use of the text better comprehension and better expression may be obtained. The conversation between Chilina and Orso (pages 79-80) is an example of dialogue that may be easily arranged for dramatization. Groups of words learned in this way are the student's very own and serve as pegs for many new developments.

A teacher of imagination using the direct method should accomplish much with this edition in the furthering of *la langue et la pensée française*.

An easy French comedy.—A very readable edition of Labiche's delicious farce, *La Poudre aux Yeux*,¹ prepared by C. P. Lebon, Master in the English High School, Boston, has just come from the press of the Macmillan Company. It recommends itself first by a short introduction which omits the usual long account of the author's life, but vividly portrays the real spirit of the master-dramatist. It is to the point, concise, satisfying. The explanatory notes are of the same description. Excellent exercises are furnished which include questions on the text, sentences for translation into French, practice on idioms and verbs.

To teachers who seek a play full of fun but not too subtle, well-interpreted and prepared for classroom use, with a good vocabulary, this edition comes as a real help.

B. READERS

An excellent second- or third-year French reader.—*La Belgique Triomphante*² by L'Abbé Joseph Larsimont, Assistant Directeur du Bureau Belge de New York, is an attractive reader, adaptable for use in second- or third-year French classes. Its comprehensive account of Belgian history from the very beginning through the days of the American Relief Commission, its fine treatment of famous cities and their buildings, its description of works of art, of industries and sports, all well illustrated and arranged in fifty-three chapters, render the book not only interesting but also most instructive.

At the end of each of the first twenty-five chapters are French questions on the text, grammatical exercises, and an English composition for translation. After the twenty-fifth lesson the grammatical exercises are omitted. It is provided with a complete vocabulary, a map, a table of proper names with French explanations, and several songs.

The appearance of this excellent reader is timely, in view of our recent welcome to Belgium's great Cardinal and our interest in his country. In the words

¹ C. P. LEBON, Labiche's, *La Poudre aux Yeux*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. viii+122. \$0.48.

² L'ABBÉ JOSEPH LARSIMONT, *La Belgique Triomphante*. Yonkers-on-Hudson, New York: World Book Co., 1919. Pp. ix+311. \$1.40.